

BASEBALL AND ATHLETIC SPORTS

RUMORS OF HITCH ARE UNFOUNDED

Ketchel, Johnson and Referee Welch Hold Conference Today to Prevent Disputes and Delays.

San Francisco, Oct. 15.—The rumors of a hitch in the Johnson-Ketchel championship fight, which is scheduled to take place in Coffroth's arena tomorrow afternoon, appear to have been hasty and unfounded, according to information that came from both camps this morning. Johnson and Coffroth had a conference last night and it was surmised that the trouble over the size of the purse of \$10,000. The rumors spread rapidly after Coffroth entered his office and said: "There may be no fight. I'll tell you more about it tomorrow." George Jeffries' manager, when asked this morning if there was any hitch, said:

"Certainly not. Johnson and Coffroth had a talk last night but nothing serious came up. It was simply that Johnson wanted to have an understanding in regard to certain little points so as not to cause any trouble. It will be up to me to assume the responsibility in connection with a certain point or two in the contract to do what the principals want. I am satisfied that the managers of the fighters should have a conference with Referee Welch today to settle everything at the last moment. There is nothing wrong with the side bet and there is a chance of anything cropping up to interfere with the fight."

KETCHEL'S MONEY UP.

With Britt, Ketchel's manager, said that he had not heard of any trouble, and that he hardly thought Johnson would raise any question as to the side bet.

The \$500 is up, a final stakeholder has been selected and men are willing to take a chance on Ketchel.

Ketchel did some sparring with "Gunner" Smith and Johnny Carson yesterday and went through two burlesque rounds with Charlie Angilner.

When Johnson stepped on the scales after his work he weighed 165 pounds.

"If I fell better I would be a champion," he said. "Tomorrow I will take a walk and I will be careful about my food and drink. I will try not to go pounds and when I think I'm about right I will see if it is not Jeffries I'm going up against."

LOOK OUT FOR KETCHEL.

"Never mind Jeffries," said Bob Attell, Ketchel's training partner, "he can't stand the heat. He can't stand the pressure of the fight now to argue with us. He has bettered his record by 10 pounds. He is a good man and I know what I am talking about."

It's too close to the fight now to indulge in arguments, advised Johnson. "I am beginning to think there will be no walk after 165 pounds. Please stop and let me get my bath."

Those who saw Jeffries during the day were satisfied that he is down to the minute. His weight was 155. The chances are that he will be close to the 160-pound mark when he goes into the ring.

KETCHEL SAYS HE WILL BE CAREFUL.

San Francisco, Oct. 14.—Jack Johnson, manager of Ketchel, the principals in Saturday's match for the heavy-weight championship, spent a strenuous day in their respective training rooms, working hard and working for both are in pink of condition, but they worked furiously under the command of the negro picture of the day, taking the pictures which will be used as an introduction to the real night pictures.

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OWEN MORAN IS AFTER ABE ATTELL.

New York, Oct. 15.—Owen Moran, English featherweight, is expected to arrive here within a day or two prepared to make a match with Abe Attell. James Coffroth, the San Francisco fight promoter, will also be here and the manager of the match, Jim Driscoll, will be to-day to see a shortening of the purse. Considerable money is being wagered on the even proposition that Attell will stay 15 rounds against the champion.

All the fighters are palpably nervous over the status of the fight. Coffroth seems to be in a bind. Johnson weighed today and tipped the beam at the pounds. Two pounds lighter than he expects to be when he climbs through the ropes, he is not so bad, and comes at his announced weight of 155 pounds. This declares to be his natural weight and the point at which he feels the strongest.

As a result of a disagreement between the principals over the status of the fight, which fell off, it looked for a time as though the match would not take place.

But the principal business that brings Coffroth to New York is believed to be the expected arrival of James J. Jeffries. As soon as Jeffries arrives, the manager will make his offer with some profress to believe he will be in the neighborhood of \$10,000, and if it is unacceptable, final articles will be signed immediately, or otherwise, Johnson and Coffroth will decide entirely on the result of Johnson's fight with Ketchel tomorrow afternoon.

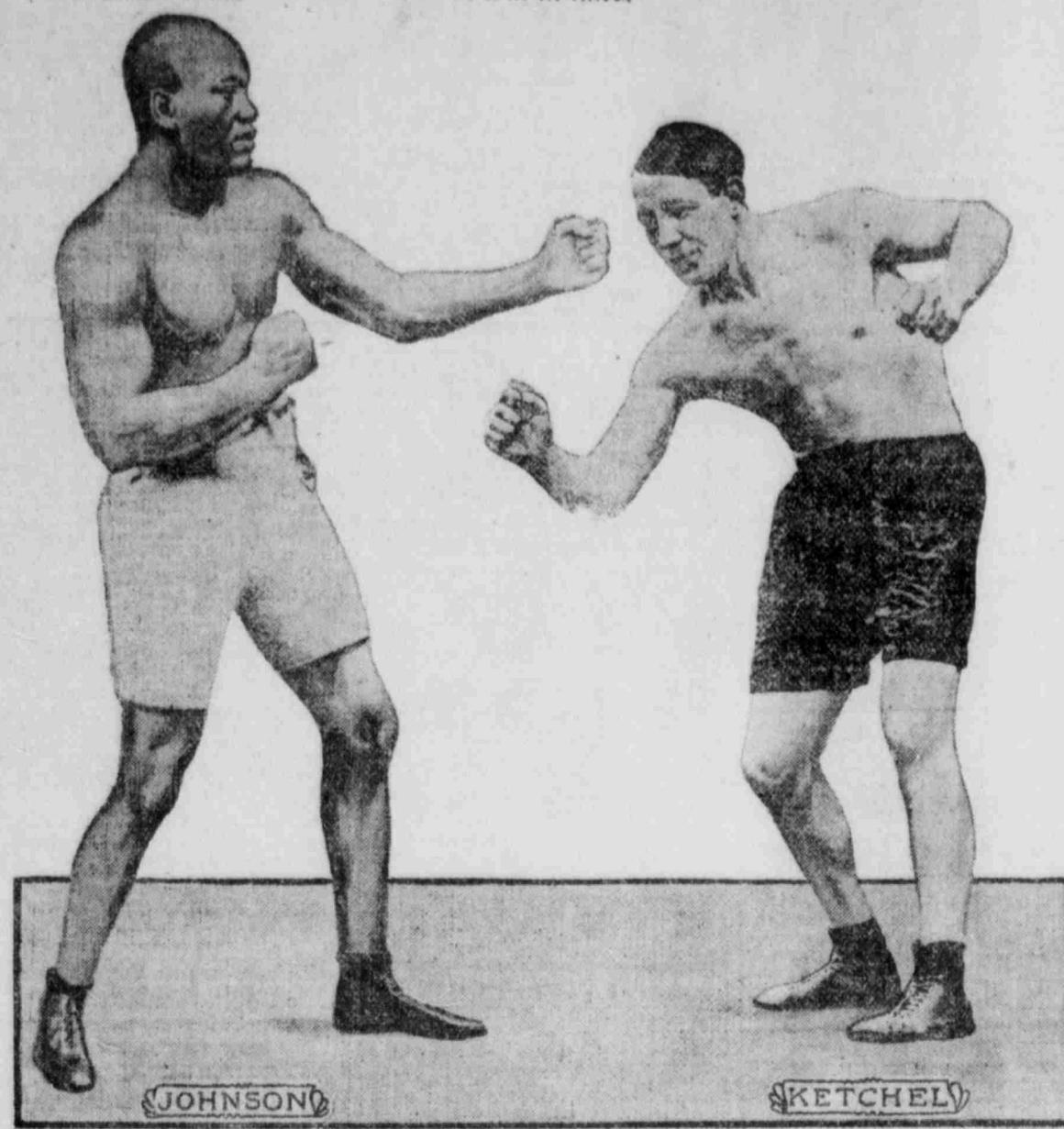


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FAMOUS RING GLADIATORS, WHO ARE TO BATTLE FOR WORLD'S TITLE, AS THEY WILL APPEAR IN RING.



JOHNSON

KETCHEL

Boxing fans throughout the civilized world are anxiously awaiting the result of the 20-round encounter between Jack Johnson, the heavyweight champion, and Stanley Ketchel, holder of the middleweight title, to be held in San Francisco tomorrow night. Judging by the strict training the men have been doing for several weeks, the bout should result in a hummer. According to all pugilistic "dope," a good big man, a hard hitting, devil-may-care fighter, can whip a good little man and spot him half a dozen hard wallops to start with. We are forced to admit that Ketchel is a good big man and far as the present stands, he is the best. No one denies the fact that the "dope" naturally points toward the black man. With his advantages of strength in weight and his natural cleverness, many experts can give Stanley nothing more than a look-in. The two men differ greatly in their methods of fighting. In the coming bout the spectators will see a small, courageous, hard hitting, devil-may-care fighter against a giant, who will be cautious, cool and behind a guard which will be hard to penetrate. There are ligaments known in the 20 rounds included. Ketchel will wade in and make every effort to land blows about the stomach which will win for him by the referee's count of 10. Johnson will be satisfied to keep Stanley away and try very cautiously to wear him with jabs now and then when they can be handled out in absolute safety. The betting on the fight is 2 to 1 that the negro wins. Jack Welsh of San Francisco has been selected as referee.

Agreement had been reached, however, and declared that the battle would be fought on Saturday, according to schedule.

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